



Community Resilience and Dialogue (CRD)

Project Description

Headed by IRC and implemented through a consortium of five international NGOs—Associazione Volontari per il Servizio Internazionale, CARE, Catholic Relief Services, International Rescue Committee, and Save the Children in Uganda—the CRD works with district authorities, local NGOs, and national NGOs to provide psychosocial rehabilitation, conflict resolution, and HIV/AIDS services to victims of conflict. In line with Uganda’s policy to decentralize services, the CRD facilitates the work of district government, national agencies, and community-based organizations to address the needs of victims of violent conflict, abduction, displacement, and torture. Efforts are made to build the capacity of local organizations to provide services with increasingly minimal CRD intervention, leading towards a timely and smooth exit of assistance by the close of the activity. Besides USAID, other donors contribute to the CRD including European governments and private charities.

Community Resilience and Psychosocial Support

Conflict affects the psychosocial well-being of society but must be addressed in family and community settings. Psychosocial well-being requires the security of family and community relationships and the existence of a safe and predictable environment. To rebuild disrupted communities and relationships, one must encourage each all to be productive and active members of society. The CRD’s approach to the reintegration of formerly abducted children and adults is holistic and integrated, addressing the material, physical, psychological, and social needs of adults and children in the context of their families and communities. It emphasizes reestablishing the returnee’s productivity, physical health, and relation to self, family, and community.

Dialogue, Peacebuilding, and Human Rights

It is vital to engage actors from grassroots, middle-range, and top leadership levels in conflict management dialogues in order to build a sustainable peace. The approach at each level is adapted to the leader’s strategic position and role in society. At the grassroots level, approaches to peace include local peace commissions, community training, prejudice reduction, and psychosocial work in post-conflict trauma.

Peacebuilding at the mid-level includes problem-solving workshops, training in conflict resolution, and the formation of peace commissions. At the top level, peacebuilding includes engaging prominent military, political, and religious leaders in national-level dialogue. Without national reconciliation—built through the regular development and promotion of trusted grassroots and mid-level networks—sustainable national dialogue and peace cannot be achieved.

HIV/AIDS

Despite the rapid recognition of the HIV/AIDS problem by the Ugandan government and the positive steps it has taken to control the spread of the disease, it is unlikely that HIV prevalence has been reduced in conflict-affected areas of Uganda. HIV spreads fastest where poverty, social disenfranchisement, and instability prevail, yet HIV/AIDS reduction requires different interventions from those in non-conflict areas.

Expected Results

- Target individuals & groups socially reintegrated
- Relevant community structures identify & respond appropriately to the psychosocial needs of vulnerable groups affected by conflict-related violence
- Community is knowledgeable of & appropriately applies peacebuilding, economic development, & human rights strategies
- Communities, organizations, & individuals provide & support appropriate peacebuilding activities pertaining to inter-community conflict
- Local communities participate in resolving conflict on national & regional levels
- Improved district HIV/AIDS planning & data capture
- Increased client access to & utilization of HIV/AIDS prevention programs
- Increased client access to & utilization of HIV/AIDS care & treatment
- Increase local NGO partners' efficiency & effectiveness

Clients

Conflict-affected persons including formerly abducted children, excombatants, orphans and vulnerable children, victims of torture, youth and elder networks, child-headed households, young mothers, and persons affected by and living with HIV/AIDS

Geographic Targets

Conflict-affected areas of Kotido, Moroto, Nakapiritpirit, Gulu, Kitgum, Pader, Apac, Lira, Kaberamaido, Katakwi, Soroti, Arua, Yumbe, Kasese, and Bundibugyo districts.

Project Duration

September 2002 – September 2007

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